



April 11, 2012

NEWS RELEASE



DPS Patrol Vessel Commissioned in Port O'Connor *Boat named in honor of the late Trooper Bill Davidson*

See photos of the *Bill Davidson* patrol vessel here:

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/pr041112photos.htm

AUSTIN - The third of the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) new patrol vessels was commissioned in Port O'Connor and named in honor of the late Trooper Bill Davidson today - 20 years to the day that he was shot in the line of duty (on April 11, 1992) during a traffic stop in Jackson County. He died three days later at the age of 43.

"These patrol vessels and the newly formed Tactical Marine Unit represent a significant enhancement of the department's ability to detect, disrupt and deter illegal activity along the Rio Grande River and Texas coast," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "We are honored to name these boats after our State Troopers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice serving and protecting the people of Texas."

The *Bill Davidson* will primarily patrol the Intracoastal Waterway, and is the third of six 34-foot shallow water interceptors that DPS will commission this year. The boats will patrol the Rio Grande River and the Intracoastal Waterway, and each boat will be named in honor of a DPS officer killed in the line of duty.

The black and white patrol vessels are equipped with advanced law enforcement technology, including multiple automatic weapons, ballistic shielding and night vision capabilities. All six patrol vessels are funded by the Texas Legislature and federal homeland security grants.

The *J.D. Davis* and the *David Rucker* are already patrolling the Rio Grande River. Trooper Davis was shot and killed in Lubbock County in 1980 and Trooper Rucker was shot and killed in Cameron County in 1981.

(HQ 2012-040)